

Sustainability Task Force

Meeting Minutes

Date: October 17, 2007

Time: 3:00 – 4:00 pm

Place: Sem II – A 2107

Agenda: Opening: What is the purpose of the Sustainability Task Force?

Update: Director of Sustainability hiring process

Update: Joint meeting with General Government Sustainability Task Force

Reminder: Support Focus the Nation and plan for day-long events Jan. 30.

Attendees: Lindsay Wright, Nancy Parkes, Steve Trotter, Victor Sanders (student transportation coordinator), Rich Davis, Rob Cole, Dennis Mobbs, Rob Knapp, Jean McGregor, Susie Seep, Kathleen Haskett, Martha Rosemeyer.

Absent: Sharon Goodman, Karen Gaul

Discussion: 2007-08 Sustainability Task Force Agenda

Topic 1 – Create a robust campus communication/education plan

- Quarterly newsletter, CPJ, KAOS, publications, etc.
- VP interviews, Dean & Director outreach
- Geoduck Student Union, and Student Groups

Topic 2 – Establishing sustainability goals, targets and methods

- Revisit Goals & Targets in our Sustainability Report
- Revisit AC & U Presidents Climate Commitment
- Institutionalize methods for annual carbon inventory
- Consider John Pumilio's thesis recommendations

Topic 3 – Work to create curriculum to 'resource' sustainability goal movement

- Create curricular programming to examine carbon offsets
- Create curricular programming to examine alternatives to natural gas use
- Create academic programs to examine transportation

Topic 4 – Work to create a comprehensive sustainability fund/endowment

- Graduate Fellows (create position descriptions for more graduate fellows)
- Faculty Fellows/Release Time

- Fund for student/projects/conferences/apply for awards

Topic 5- Work to make ourselves more ‘visible’ to our external communities

- Participate in AASHE sustainability tracking, assessment and rating system
- Participate in annual sustainability reporting to the Governor’s office
- Actively support Focus the Nation
- Create a campus ‘state of our sustainability’ report

Next Meeting: Wed, October 24, 2007 (Sem II, A2109) from 3-5pm

In 3rd year of task force, have covered some ground already. What is overall purpose of task force?

We discussed words of utility; framing, supporting, education and engaging.

Task force function is as an ambassador, not as action takers, we implement action. Our goal is to educate and engage entire community, not just task force members.

We are a resource provider; a connector for established leaders.

We have a connector role as liaison and partner, w/internal members.

We hope to be a transition from small group conscience towards helping enable the tasks of the task force.

Future Goals;

Hire a permanent director of sustainability, and structurally create graduate fellows.

Director of Sustainability is a permanent faculty position, not staff. The position is described in the position purpose, which states it is not faculty hire. The position is an administrative role. Steve Trotter is the hiring authority for this position, and will facilitate pre-screening and bring candidates to campus community for help in selection. Rob Cole and Nancy Parkes will assist. We will have operational managers assist in this process (Fred Swift). Also, we are looking for another person who will incorporate graduate fellows. Graduate fellows will participate in the selection process. Susan Harris will provide all administrative support to the group. We discussed a draft schedule of hiring process.

Group: please provide potential advertisement agendas for this position beyond AASHE, in order to promote this position. Our goal is to hire someone by the first of year, and to welcome them during late February. We discussed a salary ceiling and other compensation issues, as well as our personal pitches to other sustainability directors. K Haskett will send a list serve to about 1600 colleges to advertise position. This position is great because it is well integrated; it reaches out to multifaceted parts of campus. Other people that can help in the hiring process are the director of advising and director of food service.

Working agenda

We have a plan, and we are not currently performing these. We looked at what we said we would do. It is already outlined in the strategic plan.

We agreed that newsletters are good, and we will keep that going.

We discussed VP interviews; VP interaction...what do you need to fulfill agreement? A fellow? How can directors and VP's start on their process.

Communication education plan, reach out to students- on how to develop relationships, so all know what others are doing.

Homework assignment; read what established goals are, assess them, are they still valuable? Let's not reinvent the wheel. Let's start moving from conversation to action. The President joined climate commitment, how will we stick to this agenda? VP's have asked for STF view on John Pumilio's thesis work. John put forward the advancement of Carbon Neutrality ahead, what does the STF think of this?

Events

Sustainability and Justice, potluck Friday 5-9 organic farmhouse.

Integrating Sustainability into Evergreen Curriculum

We want more than incorporating sustainability into the catalog; we need to integrate it into the curriculum. Members, please consider that the academic carbon offsets program is available to educate and examines integrating sustainability into the curriculum. Also, our goal is to find an alternative to natural gas, its *not less bad*.

Transportation

Let's look at how to get graduate fellows into transportation, because there is a lot of movement occurring there. Lets get them looking at Evergreen's transportation footprint. We want to integrate academic programs into operational programs.

Carbon Footprint of Food Stream Movement

John Pumilio's thesis also looked at carbon impact of food stream movement. We need to improve on our methodology. Worldwide action is occurring in regards to looking at the whole life cycle of food, factors of production, transportation costs of food movement. Need additional students to do thesis work on food stream process.

Carbon Offsets

Examining carbon offsets will force Evergreen to address it. Lets be the first college to examine carbon offsets voluntarily.

Evergreen awards for Sustainability

Continue applying for awards, bringing a new Evergreen VP to accept the awards. AASHE parted away from a one only award to award us with this. Director of Department of Ecology said when awarding us, "our own Evergreen State College". Our goal is to have a central showcase to show awards to everyone and to work with more state agencies and the Governor's office.

Local government agencies want to start working more with Evergreen in partnership. The director of Ecology is leading a nonpartisan blue ribbon commission related to global warming, who is reporting back to Governor in Feb., and the Director of Ecology will hopefully participate in FTN one day. Could result in funding opportunities and we need to hesitate in participating in the progression of non-funded measures.

The Board of Governors of Evergreen Foundation.

Education sustainable fund for college; 8 plus fellows in different areas, and faculty release time for them to work with other facilities and doing research, and for student projects and conferences, applying for awards, and work on passing the roles onto new students to keep work going after students graduate. Further down the road, it is an investment in future fellows.

Because of Ball State where Lee Hoemann accepted award and Rick Reickert attended, the message is being passes onto their cohorts.

Future tasks.....

Lets add Rick Reickert to the sustainability task force distribution list.

Make pdf out of Jean McGregors power point presentation.

Help support focus the nation, make the time available and participate.

Evergreen's Master Plan-Involving Students

Rob Knapp's master plan proposal; it is happening. Where does it show up in the Sustainability Task Force's agenda goals? It will guide many physical proposals. The document is not in a plan form, it is a set of goals. It is important that Evergreen students become employed in its production.

This week is crucial because student incumbents are encouraged to participate and contribute. The plans goals are being presented as goals, not plans. Don't get your hopes up though, but the plan will affect how future monetary inputs into building options are accepted.

Commuting Solutions

Park and ride: 10 yr plan is in master plans appendix, as well as the maintenance of the buildings.

State mandated trip reduction; Commute to Production is changing to Greener Commuting Event. Commuter's 80% single occupancy is an issue for Evergreen's sustainability goals. We would like to experiment with free carpool parking, where you would turn in your day pass for raffle prize option. Other options are to set up a ride board.

Meeting ended with the assignment of reading three documents from Sustainability website, which will be emailed to all attendees.

Next meeting is Wed 10/31 Sem II A 2107.